

# **BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS STATUTE REVIEW PROJECT UPDATE**

A Report Prepared for the  
**Budget and Appropriations Subcommittee of the  
Legislative Finance Committee**

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February 21, 2008

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## PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to evaluate existing Montana laws dealing with budgeting, appropriation control, and revenue estimation to determine if any housekeeping or minor policy changes are needed and to propose statutory changes, depending upon the study findings. While the scope of the project is primarily budget and appropriation control statutes, any statute specific to analysts' assignments that impact the budget and appropriations process may be included.

## PROJECT STATUS

Since mid-December 2007, the project team has been inventorying budget and appropriations related statutes that may need technical or housekeeping changes. In addition all Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) staff has been reviewing statutes relating to their agency assignments to determine if any agency-specific statutes need to be included in the inventory. The inventory collection effort by the LFD was completed in mid-February (over 140 statutes were identified by LFD staff for further analysis) and the analysis phase of the project has begun.

Following the December 2007 Legislative Finance Committee meeting, the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) was invited to participate in this project. They have agreed to participate, and project staff met with the OBPP project liaison (Amy Sassano) in late January 2008 to review project goals and timelines.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE JUNE 2008 LFC MEETING

Below is a table showing the major milestones and timeframes for the work on this project that will take place between now and June 2008.

Date	Milestone
Feb 15 – Mar 21	LFD staff analyze statutes, identify issues, develop preliminary recommendations
Mar 21 – Apr 3	LFD management reviews study findings and provide feedback to project staff
April 4	OBPP and LFD trade "Proposed Changes" lists
April 14 – 18	Meet with OBPP to review "Proposed Changes" lists, identify common ground
April 18 – May 2	Legislative Services Division Legal Services review
Late April/Early May	Meet with LFC oversight subcommittee to review preliminary recommendation and receive feedback
May 1-23	Prepare draft report for June 2008 LFC meeting
June 2008 LFC meeting	Present report to LFC Budget and Appropriations Subcommittee; Subcommittee will determine which (if any) of the proposed statutory changes it wants to recommend to the LFC for approval. Those approved will move forward and a bill draft request will be submitted to the Legislative Services Division.

## OCTOBER 2008 LFC MEETING

If the Legislative Finance Committee accepts recommendations to propose statutory housekeeping and/or minor budget policy changes at the June 2008 meeting, a bill will be drafted by the Legislative Services Division that contains the proposed changes. The bill draft will be presented in October 2008 to the Budget and Appropriations Subcommittee for review and approval, and if approved, to the LFC for review and approval. If approved, the LFC must designate a bill sponsor.

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